

**BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN (BMA)
MINUTES FOR
FEBRUARY 08, 2021**

The Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Tullahoma, Coffee and Franklin Counties, Tennessee assembled at the Municipal Building, in Tullahoma, for a meeting on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. with Mayor Ray Knowis presiding and the following named members of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen: Jenna Amacher, Daniel Berry, Rupa Blackwell, Jimmy Blanks, Robin Dunn and Sernobia McGee. All Board Members were present.

Due to the Covid-19 Emergency, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen will conduct its essential business by electronic means rather than being required to gather a quorum of the members physically present in the same location because it is necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of Tennesseans. This meeting is in compliance with the Governor's Executive Order No. 71.

Jennifer Moody, City Administrator; Stephen M. Worsham, City Attorney and Rosemary Golden, City Recorder were present at the meeting.

The invocation was said by Rev. Jim Norman and he led us in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

COMMENDATIONS AND CERTIFICATES: - NONE -

PROCLAMATIONS, AWARDS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

Mayor Knowis read a proclamation concerning heart defects. Mayor Knowis then proclaimed February 7 -14, 2021 as Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week in the City of Tullahoma. He said that he had actually presented this proclamation to Mrs. Amanda Shiver and her son Grant last week.

Mayor Ray Knowis recognized Ms. Jennifer Moody the City Administrator. Ms. Moody gave the background information regarding the employee of the month program. Ms. Moody then recognized, Ms. Melissa Allen from the Fire Department. She said she was nominated by Deputy Fire Chief Kenneth Pearson. Both Pearson and Fire Chief Richard Shasteen said a few words.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS:

Mayor Knowis stated that later on the agenda the Board will be taking nominations to fill an open seat on the Airport Authority's Board. He gave the applicants an opportunity to speak at this time.

Mr. Steve Cope, 110 Courtside Lane, had sent in an email stating he would be out of town (Mayor Knowis read it aloud) but Steve wanted to encourage the BMA to consider him for the open Tullahoma Airport Authority Board seat.

Ms. Marie Desilets, 511 Edgewood Drive, read from an email that she had sent (attached herein). She asked Alderman Jenna Amacher to resign or be removed from office since she does not represent me or the greater good of Tullahoma.

Mr. Michael Leigh, 310 Marks Ave, asked the BMA to consider appointing him to the Tullahoma Airport Authority's Board seat that is open.

REPORTS FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN

MAYOR PRO TEM BLANKS - Dr. Blanks stated he had attended a Tullahoma Utility Authority meeting. He said the Tullahoma Arts Council is sponsoring an American Watercolor Society (AWS) exhibit that is taking place from February 6 to February 27, 2021. Dr. Blanks said that Valentine's Day is less than a week away and there are plenty of local stores that sell gifts, he said "Shop Local".

ALDERMAN BERRY - Mr. Berry stated the Coffee County Consolidated Communications Commission will hold a special call meeting on Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at 6:00pm. He said he joined the South Central Tennessee Tourism Association and they will have a meeting on February 15, 2021. Mr. Berry said he has started a new project "Whiskey-Wifi-Waterfalls" and more information will be forthcoming. He said he has changed the "Clean-Up Day" from Saturday, February 13 to Saturday, February 20, 2021. This Thursday he will host a "Know thy Neighbor" meeting. Mr. Berry said he is interested in helping an existing committee (Get-Fit Tullahoma) with a Physical and Mental health program.

ALDERMAN MCGEE - Ms. McGee said she attended the Tullahoma Area Economic Development Corporation meeting. She said the Tullahoma Housing Authority meeting will take place on February 18, 2021. Ms. McGee said unfortunately the Good Samaritan outlet thrift store was burglarized; employees of US Bank collectively purchased needed items. She said Girl Scout cookies are currently being sold. Ms. McGee said the year 2020 has been a very difficult one for a lot of people. She has a list of Coffee County resources that people can contact for help or assistance. Ms. McGee said she was able to tour the newly renovated Tullahoma Fine Arts Center and was also able to view the American Watercolor Society (AWS) traveling exhibit.

ALDERMAN DUNN - Ms. Dunn said congratulations to Ms. Melissa Allen for being awarded the Employee of the month certificate. She thanked the Tullahoma Utility Authority for their grant to help the "Go Green" association. They will use that money towards several outreach programs (rain Barrels and Compost give away).

ALDERMAN AMACHER - Ms. Amacher said she has been attending the Elected Officials Academy via zoom and she enjoys the opportunity to do so. Her small business "shout out" tonight goes to the Tullahoma Fine Arts Center. She recently took a tour of their facility and viewed the American Watercolor Society exhibit. She said she also recently joined the South Central Tennessee Tourism Association.

ALDERMAN BLACKWELL - Ms. Blackwell said both the Tullahoma Board of Education and the Planning Commission are scheduled to meet next week. She said February is "Teen Dating Violence Awareness" month. The Haven of Hope organization is planning to speak at East Middle School. Ms. Blackwell said she hopes to get with Kurt Glick to finish up the repaving at the Jefferson Street Park. She met with the School System in hopes that the Mayor's Youth Group will be able to start meeting again. Ms. Blackwell is working with "Talk Space" a mental Health Company able to provide help on-line. She said went to the Tullahoma Fine Arts Center and viewed the American Watercolor Society exhibit. This Thursday from 4:00 to 6:00 she will host a "Queso and Conversation" at the Camino Real Restaurant. Ms. Blackwell stated the Community Council on Diversity and Inclusion appointed their steering committee.

MAYOR RAY KNOWIS - Mr. Knowis stated he had met with the Tullahoma High School administration to talk about getting the Mayor's Youth Council started again. He said Alderman Berry has indicated that he wants to help with the "Get Fit Tullahoma committee" to do a program that will help people get physically fit and get fit mentally. Mayor Knowis said he toured the new Parkview facility and it is not an assisted living facility just a 55 year old and above facility.

CITY ATTORNEY - Mr. Stephen M. Worsham stated he is working on several items for the City including; the delinquent property tax sales and some Planning and Codes issues. He said his recommendations on the terms of office extension (for agencies and boards) are found on page 71 of tonight's agenda.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR – Ms. Jennifer Moody reported there is a graduate student (Jordan Wilkins) doing an internship with the City. She stated Mayor Knowis, Rich Ellis, herself and the CEO of Vanderbilt University Medical Center/Harton Hospital met last week. Ms. Moody said she is still working on the Advanced Coding Education (ACE) program with the Tullahoma City School system. She is also working on employee evaluations. Ms. Moody is starting the preliminary budget process with a schedule to be voted on tonight. She said the Police Department’s (new building) walk through and final punch list is scheduled for February 17, 2021. The City has received seven (7) proposals for its 20 year Comprehensive Growth Plan. These proposals are being evaluated by a committee and they will bring their recommendation to the Board of Mayor and Alderman soon.

Ms. Moody recognized, Fire Chief Richard Shasteen, and he gave his annual report to the Board of Mayor and Alderman.

Ms. Moody then recognized Mr. David May, with the CivicPlus, LLC. Mr. May gave a brief presentation on the CivicEngage content management system (CMS) that is not just a website but a better way to inform and empower our citizens and staff in more efficient ways. Mr. May demonstrated what our new website might look like and the various features that maybe included. A financial proposal will follow.

CONSENT AGENDA:

ITEM NO. 21-15– MINUTES OF JANUARY 25, 2021 PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR BOARD MEETING

ITEM NO. 21-16 – ADOPT THE FY 2021 BUDGET ADOPTION SCHEDULE

ITEM NO. 21-17 – ACCEPT THE DONATION OF A DRYER VALUED AT APPROXIMATELY \$500 FROM COURTESY CLEANERS FOR USE AT TULLAHOMA FIRE STATION NO. 2

ITEM NO. 21-18 – APPROVE AN APPLICATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY’S ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT (AFG) PROGRAM TO SUPPORT REPLACEMENT OF 45 SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS (SCBAS), AN ESTIMATED TOTAL PROJECT COST OF \$430,000 WITH A REQUIRED LOCAL MATCH OF FIVE PERCENT (APPROXIMATELY \$21,500), FOR THE TULLAHOMA FIRE DEPARTMENT

Mayor Knowis read the captions for the items on the Consent Agenda.

A motion was made by Alderman Blackwell and seconded by Alderman Dunn to approve the items listed above on the consent agenda.

On roll call all members present voted aye and it was so ordered.

OLD BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE NO. 1546 – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF TULLAHOMA, TENNESSEE, AS SET FORTH IN THE TULLAHOMA MUNICIPAL CODE, WHICH IS ORDINANCE NO. 1392, TO RE-ZONE A PARCEL AT 104 SOUTHSIDE STREET (COFFEE COUNTY TAX MAP 127F, Group J, PARCEL 017.01) FROM C-2 GENERAL COMMERCIAL TO R-3 HIGH-DENSITY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT; adopt on the second of two readings.

Mayor Ray Knowis read the caption for Ordinance No. 1546 and gave some background information.

A motion was made by Alderman Blanks and was seconded by Alderman Dunn to approve Ordinance No. 1546 on the second and final readings.

A discussion ensued.

The Senior Planner, Ms. Mary Samaniego, answered some questions and gave some more detailed background information.

On roll call all members present voted aye and it was so ordered.

NEW BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE NO. 1547 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TULLAHOMA, TENNESSEE TO AMEND TITLE 2, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS, ETC., OF THE TULLAHOMA MUNICIPAL CODE TO PROVIDE FOR AND DEFINE “PARTIAL TERMS”; adopt on the first of two readings.

Mayor Ray Knowis read the caption for Ordinance No. 1547 and said the background information could be found on page 71 of the agenda. He also stated that Mr. Worsham, City Attorney, had addressed this issue earlier in the evening.

A motion was made by Alderman Berry and was seconded by Alderman Blackwell to approve Ordinance No. 1547 on the first of two readings.

A discussion ensued.

Alderman Berry wanted to be on record, stating that he supports Mr. Paul Sirks as an Airport Authority Board member. He said at the last meeting the reason he voted against the motion was because he was against the concept (extending his term without code authority) not the person.

On roll call all members present voted aye and it was so ordered.

ITEM NO. 21-19 – CONSIDER THE REAPPOINTMENT OF MS. JENNIFER BENETTI-LONGHINI TO THE TULLAHOMA AIRPORT AUTHORITY FOR A 5-YEAR TERM EXPIRING ON FEBRUARY 27, 2026

Mayor Ray Knowis read the caption for Agenda Item No. 21-19 and said the background information could be found on page 73 of the agenda.

A motion was made by Alderman Blanks and was seconded by Alderman Dunn to reappoint Ms. Jennifer Benetti-Longhini to the Tullahoma Airport Authority for a term that will expire on February 27, 2026.

On roll call all members present voted aye and it was so ordered.

ITEM NO. 21-20 – CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF A QUALIFIED APPLICANT TO THE TULLAHOMA AIRPORT AUTHORITY FOR A 5-YEAR TERM EXPIRING ON FEBRUARY 27, 2026

Mayor Ray Knowis read the caption for Agenda Item No. 21-20 and gave the background information. He stated earlier in the evening both candidates were given an opportunity to speak. He then opened the floor for nominations.

Alderman Blanks nominated Mr. Steve Cope.

There were no further nominations, so Mayor Knowis closed the floor and asked for the vote to be taken.

On roll call all members present voted aye for Mr. Steve Cope; accordingly Mr. Steve Cope will serve on the Tullahoma Airport Authority Board with his term to expire on February 27, 2026.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Mayor and Aldermen at this time, the Board Meeting adjourned at 7:08pm.

CITY RECORDER

MAYOR

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